

APRIL.

This Month is generally distinguished by high winds and changeable weather. We think it favourable to agriculture, when the ground is protected with a good covering of snow to the end of March, and the sooner we have spring after the first of April, the better—as it gives us an early seed time. Wheat and oats sown the first week of April have often produced abundantly. If fall wheat were sown in August, and well covered, it might perhaps, be successfully cultivated. The wheat plant is very hardy ; and if early sown and well rooted, and the soil well drained, it might suffer little injury. The danger arises from the soil thawing in the spring, when it is liable to be thrown out, and many of the fibres broken and torn asunder by the alternate freezing and thawing--the contraction and expansion of the soil. The steady winters of Lower Canada are more favourable in many respects, than the changeable winters of Upper Canada and the States ; and unseasonable frosts in spring and fall are not so common. Sowing should commence the moment the land is ready for working ; and in this advantage do we reap the benefit of thorough drainage. Oats, peas and beans may be sown as early as the soil can be harrowed, and potatoes should be planted early. Stock are much stunted in food in July and August, and we should prepare in good time against any accidental loss, by sowing a fair proportion of mowing crops for soiling, when the pastures begin to fail—clover, Alfalfa or Lucerne, Indian Corn, Rye sown thick and cut down green, Alsike or Swedish Clover, or Buckwheat. Even a small breadth of such crops cut down, and fed out in the latter end of July and August, would be of great advantage. A close sward of grass is less easily effected, but the common pastures of this country, when not carefully seeded down, are sure to suffer severely from drought. The sowing of barley, the best crop with which to sow grass seeds, may be deferred till May—until warm weather obtains ; and excellent crops have been ripened without a shower. Wheat sowing has been generally differed till the 15th or 20th of May, as early sown crops have suffered so severely from the fly. All seeds should be carefully washed or pickled, and dried with lime or ashes, as we recommended in a former Number of the Journal. We would again recommend thorough draining. We are, and ever will be its conscientious and persistent advocates. But wet soils cannot be well or timeously ploughed—they cannot be properly harrowed—the seed perishes—at least a large proportion—the manure sours, or remains inactive—fly and rust prevail—the harvests are late and deficient. By accidental favouring circumstances, the farmer may reap a chance, or *stolen crop*—and a good one—but he cannot succeed in raising good crops regularly. Unless in exceptional, and very adverse seasons, good crops will infallibly result from good cultivation, and these exceptional seasons are, fortunately, of rare occurrence in Canada. We are convinced too, that as improved cultivation becomes fashionable, the drill culture will generally supersede the broadcast system. But this,